

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIG-01 /105 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET AIRLIFT TO ETHIOPIA

1. ALTHOUGH NO QUESTIONS ASKED ON SUBJECT DURING DEC. 13
NOON PRESS BRIEFING, CURRENT PRESS GUIDANCE IS AS GIVEN
BELOW FOR USE, ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS, IN CONTACTS WITH HOST

GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. ANY PRESS QUERIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MASSIVE SOVIET EFFORT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO ETHIOPIA?

ANSWER: THE HORN IS AN AREA HISTORICALLY BESET BY TERRITORIAL AND ETHNIC CONFLICT. THE MASSIVE SOVIET SUPPLY OF ARMS FIRST TO ONE SIDE AND NOW TO THE OTHER HAS TRAGICALLY MAGNIFIED THE HUMAN SUFFERING. OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO LET THE AFRICANS WORK THIS PROBLEM OUT THEMSELVES. THE SUPER POWERS STAYING OUT DO NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE AFRICANS CAN FIND A SOLUTION, BUT SUPER POWER INVOLVEMENT ENSURES THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO DO SO. THE SOVIET ACTIVITIES INTERFERE WITH THE WORK OF THE OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE, NOW STRIVING TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL AND ENDURING SOLUTION TO THIS LONG-STANDING DISPUTE. FOR THESE REASONS WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PROVIDE EITHER SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA WITH ARMS SO LONG AS THE CURRENT CONFLICT

CONTINUES. WE REGRET THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT CHOSEN TO FOLLOW A LIKE POLICY.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM THE SOVIET BUILDUP?

ANSWER: WE HAVE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE STEPPING UP THEIR MILITARY EFFORT TO ETHIOPIA WITH AN AIRLIFT.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE US DOING ABOUT THE SITUATION?

ANSWER: WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO THE SOVIETS. THESE CONCERNS ARE SHARED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES WHO DESIRE NO SUPER-POWER MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE AFRICAN VIEW ABOUT SUPER POWER INVOLVEMENT IN THE OGADEN?

ANSWER: OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES ASKING HOW WE MIGHT ASSIST THE OAU EFFORT TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE. THE CONSISTENT ANSWER WE RECEIVED WAS THAT THE SUPER POWERS COULD BEST HELP THE EFFORT BY STAYING OUT. WE HAVE SCRUPULOUSLY HEEDED THAT ADVICE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, US
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